



Activities Calendar December, 2003 — May, 2004

Highlights

Boat Trips

Daily

Guided glass bottom boat tours, snorkeling trips and scuba diving trips are all great ways to experience Biscayne. Weekend Sunset Cruises, too! *Details on page 2.*

Ranger's Choice

Daily at 2:30 p.m.

from December 26 – April 25
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday
from April 27 – July 1

From porch talks to short walks, learn about Biscayne's diverse resources with a park ranger. Programs range from 20 minutes to an hour. Check at the visitor center information desk for the day's topic and location.

Gallery Exhibits

Ongoing

Artists have always played a crucial role in increasing awareness and inspiring stewardship of National Parks. Changing exhibits in our visitor center gallery highlight the work of contemporary artists who continue that long tradition. *See page 3 for more information.*

Family Fun Fests

First Sunday of Every Month

Three full hours of fun for kids and kids-at-heart! Each month features a different theme with lots of hands-on activities. Complete them all and you'll earn a special button! All activities take place at the Dante Fascell Visitor Center. Sponsored in part by the Captain Bob Lewis Boat Center Yamaha Billfish Challenge. *Check page 4 for all the details.*

Canoe and Kayak Trips

Second and Fourth Saturday of
Every Month January 10 - April 24

Discover the wonders of the mangrove shoreline on a leisurely two-hour guided paddle. *Learn more on page 4.*

Island Excursions

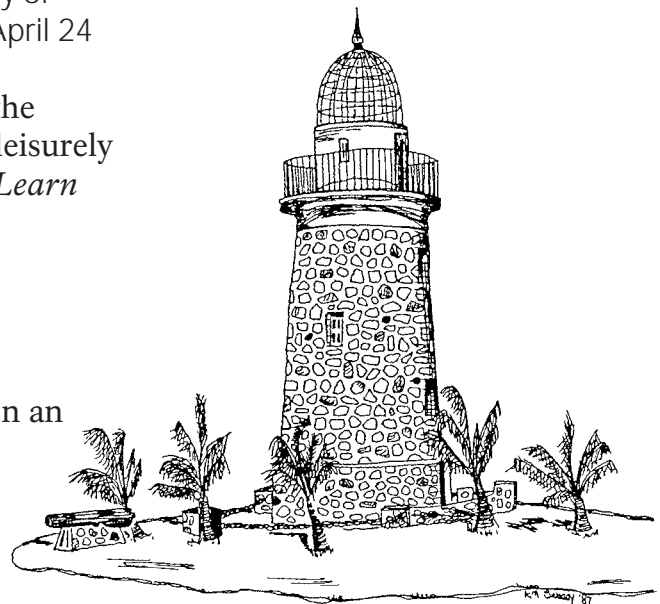
Sunday Afternoons

How does an afternoon on an idyllic subtropical island sound? Take a leisurely stroll on Elliott Key or Boca Chita Key, Biscayne National Park's two most popular islands. *Start planning your trip on page 2.*

Discovery Series: *The Big Picture*

Third Wednesdays, January - April

Biscayne National Park is a special place in its own right, but it's also a part of something bigger. Take a look at how the park fits into the larger communities of South Florida and the Greater Caribbean in this free adult lecture series hosted by the Coconut Grove Sailing Club, 2990 South Bayshore Drive. *Look on page 3 to learn more.*



Programs and prices subject to
change without notice.

Boat Trips

Glass Bottom Boat Trips

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Daily

Visiting the reefs and islands of Biscayne National Park is a highlight of any visit. Windy conditions will allow you to explore the Florida Keys on foot with less annoyance from insects, while calm conditions afford an opportunity to see the spectacular world of the coral reef. Fees are \$24.45 for adults, \$19.45 for seniors, and \$16.45 for kids under 12. Six passenger minimum.

Snorkeling Trip

1:15 to 4:30 p.m. Daily

One of the best ways to appreciate the beauty of the park is by snorkeling the seagrass beds and mangroves of Biscayne Bay or on the coral reefs offshore. Fees are \$35 per person, including equipment rental. Six passenger minimum.

Scuba Diving

8:30 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays

Certified Divers can discover the wonder and pristine beauty of South Florida's living coral reefs. A two-tank dive is \$54. Fee includes weights, but additional equipment rental is extra. Six passenger minimum.

Boat Trips

(continued)

Sunset Cruises

Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only through April 3

Pinks, oranges, reds and purples — what a way to end a day! A relaxing, 2-hour cruise on Biscayne Bay to view the sunset is often accompanied by birds moving to their evening roosts, and even an occasional dolphin or manatee sighting. Fees are \$14.95 for all seats. Six passenger minimum. Departure times vary — call 305-230-1100 for details.

National Park Week Boat Trips

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
April 18 – 24



From Yellowstone and the Grand Canyon to Independence Hall and the Statue of Liberty, national parks each tell a part of the American Story. Miami-Dade County has the honor of being the only county in the nation with two national parks. Celebrate National Park Week at Miami's "other" national treasure with special prices on ranger-guided boat trips to the coral reef or northern Keys. All seats are \$16.45, but space is limited.



Island Excursions

Boca Chita Key:

Millionaire's Retreat

Second and Fourth Sunday
of Every Month
1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

A former hideaway for the rich and famous in the early 1900s, Boca Chita is now Biscayne National Park's most popular island. Take a leisurely stroll past the historic lighthouse, walls and pavilion. Boat fees are \$24.45 for adults, \$19.45 for seniors and \$16.45 for kids under 12.

Elliott Key: Island Dreaming

First and Third Sunday
of Every Month
1:30 to 4:30 p.m.



Covered by a tropical hardwood forest, Elliott Key offers visitors an opportunity to see the Florida Keys the way they used to be, and get a glimpse into the lives of the people who made this island their home. Boat fees are \$24.45 for adults, \$19.45 for seniors and \$16.45 for kids under 12.

Boat Tour Reservations

By Phone: 305-230-1100
By email: dive970@aol.com

Baynanza Events

visit www.miamidade.gov/baynanza for details on this month-long celebration of Biscayne Bay's natural and human history



In the Gallery

Lost and Found Fish

Sculpture by Captain Honk
October 18, 2003 – April 25, 2004



Old tires, burned-out light bulbs, and discarded flip-flops never looked so good! Thomas Bintz (a.k.a. Captain Honk) creates whimsically realistic fish sculptures from debris found along the world's shorelines. Over 70 pieces in the gallery and on the Visitor Center grounds carry an additional message about recycling and environmental protection.

On the Bay with Brush, Pen and Camera

Works by the Homestead Art Club
April 30 – July 28, 2004

For over 60 years, members of the Homestead Art Club have created pieces inspired by the bounty of South Dade life: the people, their endeavors, and the landscape of the area's many environments. In their first showing at the Dante Fascell Visitor Center Gallery, works in a variety of media reflect the natural and human history of Biscayne National Park.

Discovery Series

Biscayne Bay: The Rest of the Story

January 21 — 7:30 p.m.
Marsha Colbert
Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve

Most of the southern part of Biscayne Bay is protected within the boundaries of Biscayne National Park, but who's taking care of the rest of the bay? Explore hidden creeks, inlets, hammocks and other little-known jewels, from North Miami to Coral Gables, with Marsha Colbert, the manager of the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve.

In the Beginning...

February 18 — 7:30 p.m.
Juanita Greene and Lloyd Miller
Biscayne National Park Pioneers

In the 1960s, south Biscayne Bay was threatened with heavy development, including a major petrochemical plant, deep dredging and a city called Islandia. Fortunately, a small, committed and very persistent group of people fought to establish a national monument unlike any other. Join two members of that small group as they reminisce about the park's early days.

Discovery Series

(continued)

The Biscayne/Everglades Connection

March 17 — 7:30 p.m.
Sarah Bellmund
Biscayne National Park

At first glance, Biscayne's limpid turquoise waters would seem to have little in common with the grassy expanses of the Everglades, but the two areas have always been intimately connected. Sarah Bellmund leads a look at how Biscayne Bay fits into the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan with all its promise, challenge and opportunity.

Regional Resources

April 21 — 7:30 p.m.
Matt Patterson
National Park Service



The final installment of this year's *Discovery Series: The Big Picture* takes a look at efforts to inventory and monitor plants and animals in U.S. National Parks in South Florida and the Caribbean. Matt Patterson discusses the benefits of studying sea turtles, coral reefs and other natural resources in a broader regional context.



Discovery Series lectures held
Wednesdays at
Coconut Grove Sailing Club,
2990 South Bayshore Drive,
Miami.

Family Fun Fests

Experience Your America

January 4 — 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Imagine climbing up a rocky cliff face, traveling through time, or coming face-to-face with some of North America's biggest animals. National Parks can provide all these experiences. Sample what a few of Biscayne's sister parks have to offer with rock climbing, 30-million year old fossils, and more.

Sports Gone Wild!

February 1 — 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Marlins and Manatees and Dolphins, oh my! South Florida's favorite sports teams are all named for a part of our natural environment, but what's the real story behind the mascots? Practice defensive formations like a pod of dolphins, feed like a University of Miami ibis and meet Manny and Mandy, the mascots for the World Hockey Association's Miami Manatees! Don't forget to wear your favorite team's colors!

Plantastic!

March 7 — 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

They give us shade, food, and oxygen. If it weren't for plants, where would we be? Play a game of mangrove darts, write a seagrape postcard and take home your own native plant as we get a closer look at some of South Florida's fantastic plant communities.

Family Fun Fests

(continued)

Every Litter Bit Counts!

April 4 — 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.



Need a recycling refresher? You've come to the right place! Transform trash into treasure by making your own recycled critters, take part in a scavenger hunt using Captain Honk's *Lost and Found Fish*, and test your skills in the Ultimate Recycling Relay.

Nautical Know-How

May 2 — 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.



Ahoy, Mateys! Grab your compass and don your lifejacket for the season's final Family Fun Fest. Read the clouds to predict the weather, create your own seagrass meadow to send to your friends, and learn to safely navigate your way around islands, reefs and shallows on an imaginary boat trip through the park.



Prices and programs subject to change without notice. Click on the Events Calendar link on our website for last-minute updates.

Other Programs

Canoe and Kayak Trips

Second and Fourth Saturday of Every Month January 10 – April 24
9:00 a.m. to Noon

Sneak up a tree-lined channel to spot a crocodile, or listen for the whoosh of a manatee surfacing for air on a two-hour journey over seagrass meadows and along the park's mangrove-fringed shoreline. Bring water, sunscreen, a hat, sunglasses, insect repellent, sturdy shoes you don't mind getting wet and lots of positive energy. Provide your own boat, or rent one at the discount rate of \$15.95. Call 305-230-1100 to reserve a canoe or kayak.

Interested in Volunteering?

Conduct fish and turtle surveys, provide visitor information at the visitor center, give lighthouse tours, assist with filing and computer work, and more. Call 305-230-1144, x3035 for details.

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Experience Your America

